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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,595	06/14/2001	Sean W. March	NORT0097US (14454RRUS01U)	6420
7590	07/12/2005			EXAMINER LEE, CHI HO A
Dan C. Hu TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C. Ste. 100 8554 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77024			ART UNIT 2663	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 07/12/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SM

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/881,595	MARCH ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Andrew Lee	2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3,5-9,12-19 and 21-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-9,12-19 and 21-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/17/05</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 12-19, 21-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Albert et al U.S. Patent Number 6,650,641.

Re Claim 1, fig. 3C teaches a Fixed Affinity Database 303 (a storage module) that stores address and port translation information; Forwarding Agent (a controller) that receives a datagram packet (a data unit) from the client 304 (a first network), wherein the datagram includes a source address, a source port, a destination address, and a destination port wherein the received datagram undergoes NAT translation whereby the source address, destination address, source and destination ports are changed (See fig. 13 and col. 30, lines 1-26).

Re Claims 2, 9, 14, 15, refer to Claim 1, wherein the Source address and Port number is associated with the Client 304 (first device) and the Destination address and port number is associated with Host destination device 310 (a second device) whereby the forwarding agent via NAT mapping translates the received packet into alias address and port for the first and second device.

Re Claim 3, refer to Claim 1, wherein the Forwarding agent (the controller) is transmits the translated information between Client 304 (the first network) and Host network 310 (another network).

Re Claims 5, 6, refer to Claim 1, wherein the forwarding agent supports IP packet , UDP header and RTP data.

Re Claim 12, refer to Claim 1, wherein the fig. 2c teaches the User Interface 276 (a first interface) connecting the client (first device) and a Network Interface 276 (a second interface) connecting to the host (second device) wherein the interfaces facilitate transporting of data unit between the devices; Forwarding Agent provides address and port translation for hiding the address and port information between the devices.

Re Claim 13, refer to Claim 1.

Re Claims 16, 26, refer to Claim 1, fig. 3B teaches whereby the service manager forwarding agent and creates virtual IP address (partially create a address translation information) responsive to the Client 304 (first device) connection request to the Host device (second terminal) and completes the address translation based on the SYN ACK message (See col. 12, lines 9-28).

Re Claims 17-19, 21-24, refer to Claim 16, wherein the Service manager creates translation address to be stored in the affinity table (a plurality of entries)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7, 8, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albert et al U.S. Patent Number 6,650,641 in view of Schuster et al U.S. Patent Number 6,822,957.

Re Claims 7, 25, and 27, Albert et al teaches a NAT forwarding agent for translating between the client network and host network. It is inherent that the forwarding agent to include a media portal. Albert et al fails to explicitly teach the system of Albert to include "an agent adapted to perform call signaling to establish a call session in which data units are communicated.". However, Schuster teaches a SIP aware router with NAT functionality, whereby the SIP aware router performs call signaling to establish a call session. One skilled in the art would have been motivated by Schuster to modify the Forwarding agent in Albert to include the known SIP signaling protocol to enable VOIP applications over the IP network. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled to combine the teaching of Schuster into the teaching of Albert.

Re Claim 8, refer to Claim 7, wherein the Service Manager of Albert performs dynamic creation and updated of translation address and port information.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-19, and 21-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-3130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on 571-272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2663

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AI

7/7/05 ANDY LEE

PATENT EXAMINER